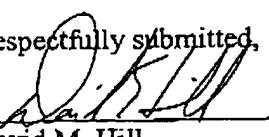


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2 REMARKS3       Applicant submits this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment in response to a telephone  
4       interview with the Examiner on February 21, 2001.5       On November 6, 1997, applicant filed a Request for Filing a Continuation Application,  
6       which included a Preliminary Amendment making corrections to the specification, some figures,  
7       and the abstract, as well as adding claims 183-260 to the original claims 1-2. On March 22,  
8       1999, an Office Action was issued discussing only claims 1-2. On April 23, 1999, applicant,  
9       after a telephone interview with the Examiner, resubmitted the Preliminary Amendment for  
10      consideration. No further action was received by the applicant.11       So, in accordance with the February 21, 2001 telephone interview with the Examiner,  
12      applicant herein cancels claims 1-2, and renumbers claims 183-260 as claims 3-80.13       Applicant submits that claims 3-80 represent a novel and patentable contribution to the  
14      art and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is  
15      respectfully requested.

Date: February 21, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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